

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS.**

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE OF CT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Dear members of the Connecticut Human Services Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Patricia Olivier and I live in New Britain, Connecticut. I am Mexican. I came to this country to achieve my goals of having a better life and helping my family. I am in favor of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS because it is an important step forward in getting health insurance for all immigrants.

I was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes 17 years ago. It has been damaging many of my tendons. Because of this I have also lost my job because I have lost mobility in my fingers. I have been getting a lot of cramps everywhere in my body, both in my feet, stomach and back. Sometimes my legs feel like they are burning inside; it is a very strong burning feeling. My eyes have also been damaged; I have been diagnosed with glaucoma. I need glasses, I need to go to the specialist, I need medication. Even insulin is very hard to get and very expensive. I have had to seek financial help from some associations to be able to pay for my glasses, and this has also damaged me psychologically. And now with COVID I have a lot of depression, my blood sugar has accelerated even more, and going to a specialist is too expensive.

So now I ask and beg you to have consideration and a little humanity with us immigrants. We ask that you support S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS because it is an important step towards what we really need: to give HUSKY to immigrants of all ages-children, youth, and adults. Then we will be able to work, because we are responsible and hardworking people. If we are healthy, we can help move our cities forward, and this country forward. Because it will be full of hard-working and honest people, there will be no more drug addiction or avoidable problems.

Thank you for your time,  
Patricia Olivier